

OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

Key Facts for Prescribers

What is OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare?

As part of the 2017 Budget and the government's ongoing commitment to provide better and faster access to high-quality health services, Ontario is creating OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare.

Beginning January 1, 2018, the province will provide drug coverage for children and youth who are covered by OHIP and aged 24 and under, regardless of family income.

OHIP+ will create a new class of eligible recipients under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program. Similar to seniors, enrollment will be automatic based on age and OHIP coverage; there will be no applications necessary to join the program. Those eligible for the program only need to have their health card number and a valid prescription in order to receive an eligible drug product or professional pharmacy service free of charge starting January 1, 2018.

What drugs will be covered?

OHIP+ will cover all drugs currently covered through the ODB program. This includes more than 4,400 drug products listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index. Additional drugs are eligible for funding through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP).

Examples of common drug products used by children and youth, age 24 and under, which are covered through the ODB program, include:

- Antibiotics to treat infections
- Inhalers for asthma
- Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (e.g. EPIPENS®)
- Various insulins, oral diabetic medications and diabetes test strips
- Drugs to treat arthritis, epilepsy and other chronic conditions
- Medications to treat mental health conditions (e.g. antidepressants)
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) drugs
- Drugs to treat some childhood cancers and other rare conditions
- Professional pharmacy services including Medscheck, Pharmaceutical Opinion and the Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Program

The Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary/Comparative Drug Index has a search function that can be accessed online at:

www.formulary.health.gov.on.ca/formulary/

Exceptional Access Program (EAP)

The EAP facilitates access to drugs not funded through the ODB Formulary, or where no listed alternative is available.

In order to receive coverage, the child or youth must be eligible to receive benefits under the ODB program.

Under OHIP+, children/youth (that have not had a previous EAP assessment) will need an EAP assessment to determine if they will receive coverage for an EAP product. For example, for children and youth that have been stabilized on an EAP product outside of the ODB program, prescribers are encouraged to submit an EAP request for assessment prior to January 1, 2018. **In order to ensure seamless coverage on January 1, 2018, the ministry is encouraging prescribers to submit EAP requests for eligible patients as soon as possible.** Please feel free to fax full EAP requests to: **1-844-227-6590**.

In October 2017, specific details regarding the EAP pre-approval process for the OHIP+ population will be available online.

Children and youth who have an approved EAP request for a particular drug product will be fully covered for the cost of that drug.

Additional information on Ontario's Exceptional Access Program can be found at:

health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/eap_mn.aspx

Working with prescribers

The Ontario government acknowledges that children and youth often have very different needs from the adult population in regards to medical treatment and drug therapy.

There is a commitment to work with clinicians and specialty groups who oversee the medical care of our paediatric population to ensure there is a smooth transition of children and youth on January 1, 2018.

Prescribers that specialize in treating children or who have a large clientele of paediatric patients are encouraged to review the kinds of drugs and drug products covered on the ODB Formulary and through the EAP. If you search the formulary, and your patient's current drug or drug product isn't there, you may want to take this opportunity to see if there is a drug or drug product on the ODB formulary or funded through the EAP that may be appropriate.

If prescribers have concerns regarding drugs on the Formulary that may vary from their current prescribing patterns, please send your concerns to:

OHIPplus@ontario.ca

OHIP+ for refugee claimants

OHIP eligibility is based on immigration status. Individuals deemed as Convention refugees by the Federal Government are OHIP eligible immediately upon arrival and do not have a 3-month wait. These children and youth will be covered by OHIP+ once they have applied for OHIP and are OHIP insured.

Refugee claimants (those that have not yet received legal status from the government) are not OHIP eligible but may be covered by the Canadian Government's Interim Federal Health Program while their applications are under review. These children and youth will not be covered by OHIP+. Coverage through OHIP+ will be automatic as soon as refugee claimants become OHIP insured.

If a child is currently on a drug which is funded under a private insurance plan, will the child continue to be covered for the drug under OHIP+?

If the drug is listed on the ODB Formulary, coverage will be provided through OHIP+.

If the drug is available through EAP, the child or youth must be assessed for coverage (if they have not already been assessed through the ODB program).

Prescribers are encouraged to speak to patients and families prior to January 1, 2018 to discuss drugs available through the ODB.

This might include whether the child/youth should be assessed for coverage through EAP.

If the drug is not currently funded through the ODB Program, it will not be funded through OHIP+. Prescribers can speak with the patients/families about alternative treatments which may be covered.

For More Information:

If you have questions or comments, please send an email to OHIPplus@ontario.ca

For information on the Ontario Drug Benefit Program:

www.ontario.ca/page/get-coverage-prescription-drugs

For information on the over 4,400 drug products covered through the Ontario Drug Benefit program:

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/odbf_mn.aspx

If you need information on how to get an Ontario Health Card please visit:

www.ontario.ca/page/health-cards

or contact ServiceOntario at 416-327-7567 (GTA), 1-800-664-8988 (toll-free in Ontario only) or 1-800-387-5559 (TTY).